

# THE ALUMNÆ NEWS

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## REGISTERED DEGREES.

It is now understood that the Normal College grants but one kind of A. B. degree. This is obtained by the completion of 60 "hours" of college work, in not less than three years and preferably in four. It is registered by the State Department of Education, and, in virtue of that fact, is theoretically the equal of any A. B. degree granted by any college. If I am correctly informed, it is the only Normal College degree now recognized as a basis for post-graduate work at Columbia and New York Universities.

For some time past it has been the desire of the Faculty to perfect a plan by which alumnae who hold other kinds of degrees from the Normal College might be enabled, without too great a sacrifice, to procure this degree whose value is not likely to be questioned. Many of the graduates from the former five-year or six-year courses have pursued advanced studies in connection with their work as teachers; some of them have been notably successful in post-graduate courses to which they have been until recently admitted. It did not seem unreasonable under these circumstances to think that the College, on the basis of such work, might in some cases grant an A. B. degree which would put the holder's academic status beyond question. As is known to some of the Alumnae, considerable time and work have been expended by various members of the Faculty in the endeavor to establish a system by which this result might be legally attained. The Executive Committee of the Trustees, after careful consideration, finally authorized the plan submitted to them. But unexpected difficulties have been encountered in correspondence with the Regents' office, and as chairman of the committee lately in charge of this matter, I am compelled to announce (to my great regret) that the plan seems for the present impracticable.

It is not necessary to go into all the details of the subject to make this clear. One or two statements will suffice. For instance, the Regents' rules forbid granting a degree to a candidate who has not

been "in residence" the last year before the degree is granted. Again, no course completed elsewhere may receive a greater credit in "hours" by the Normal College than would be given by the institution where the course was taken. Thus an amount of work which might occupy an undergraduate student four or five "hours," could receive only the two or three "hours" credit which is assigned to it in a post-graduate scheme. Such a method of crediting work done would postpone the acquirement of the new degree so many years that few or none would undertake the task.

For reasons of this kind, then, it seems impossible for the College with its existing machinery to be of any assistance to the graduates from short courses in obtaining a better degree. Those who have been interested in this subject will thus understand why their applications and testimonials are returned to them from the files of the Committee, which is now dissolved.

G. M. Whicher.

## AT HOME.

As the second Friday in April, the ninth, is Good Friday, it has seemed best to postpone our At Home until Friday, the twenty-third. The special feature of this At Home will be our invitation to the graduating class of the College. It is therefore, to be desired that a larger number of Alumnae be present. If we expect to induce successive classes to join the Association, we of that Association should show some interest in it. Please keep the sixteenth free for the At Home.

Owing to the fact that the March News was late, Alumnae were not informed of the fact that the portrait of Prof. Gillet would be on exhibition on the day of the March At Home. We hope to have it hung in the Music Room on the sixteenth of April.

## "DR. FAUSTUS" TO BE PLAYED AT NORMAL COLLEGE.

The attention of the Alumnae is called to the first public performance of the Nor-

mal College Dramatic Club on the evening of April 22nd, at 8.15, in the College Chapel, when the club will present Marlowe's *Dr. Faustus*. As it is our wish to make this Club a college organization in the broadest sense, we earnestly desire the sympathetic understanding and support of the Alumnae as well as that of the undergraduates. A word of explanation, therefore, as to the work and the aim of the club will perhaps be of interest to you.

The criticism of amateur dramatics, whether collegiate or not, have always been that they offer their audiences at best, only an inferior presentation of plays which have already been ably produced by professionals. Recognizing the justice of this criticism, Princeton and Williams have already met it by the presentation of plays which could not be seen on the professional stage, plays which were written for the stage and have been for so long a time relegated to the closet. This revival of Elizabethan non-Shakespearean drama was begun at Princeton with the production of *Dr. Faustus* under the able management of Mr. George L. Sargent, a Princeton graduate. It was so enthusiastically received there, both by alumni and students, that it was reproduced at Williams, where it again aroused the greatest enthusiasm. The experiment was, indeed, so successful, that this spring Mr. Sargent will produce "*The Knight of the Burning Pestle*" at Princeton and "*The Jew of Malta*," at Williams.

It has seemed wise to the council of our Club, to join in this movement and to present each year, at least one of these older plays which have been so long neglected on the modern professional stage. Mr. Sargent has generously offered his invaluable assistance for our initial performance, and we hope to show that the Normal College presentation of *Dr. Faustus* is behind those already given, in point of time only. We are also hoping that our effort to do something worth while for the college along dramatic lines, will meet with as keen appreciation and as loyal support from our Alumnae as similar efforts have, elsewhere.

Tickets for the performance will be placed on sale during the first week in April, and may be obtained from Miss Mary G. Doyle or Miss Kathryn T. Reid, on either Monday or Wednesday afternoons between 4 and 5.30 at the entrance to the college library. The tickets will be

sold this year at 50 cents apiece and there will be no reserved seats. The proceeds will be divided between the Dramatic Club and the Scholarship Fund.

Marjorie Burr, Director.

### THE WISTARION FOR 1909.

The Normal College year book, *The Wistarion*, is now being prepared. It is to be larger and improved in every way. A notable innovation, in the form of an Alumnae section, will be introduced. There will be a new faculty group-picture, besides new pictures of the separate members of the faculty. Other attractive changes are being prophesied which will make *The Wistarion* a most desirable possession. The editors feel justified in expecting a large sale among the Alumnae. The cost is very low considering the quality — \$1.25. Subscription blanks may be had from the editors at the College. Send for them at once and so be sure for a copy before the edition is sold out.

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE NOTES.

A regular meeting of the Executive Committee was held on March 8th, in the Music Room.

A brief and interesting report was presented by the Building Committee of which Miss Hester A. Roberts is chairman. Miss Roberts invites suggestions concerning the new building. President Davis, in the interview which he gave the Committee, said he would listen with pleasure to any suggestions from Alumnae which came through its Committee.

The Executive Committee voted to discontinue the work of the University Extension Committee for a year, as there seems to be no great desire among Alumnae for these courses. Of the three courses given this past winter, two have been pretty well attended though not largely by Alumnae.

The report of the Gillet Memorial Committee was read and adopted after a little discussion on the latter half. The first part of the report dealt with the purchase of a portrait of Professor Gillet, which the College and Alumnae Memorial Committee had selected from among those submitted. The Executive Committee voted to purchase this portrait.

The second part concerned the decision of the joint committees, as to the nature